

# Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council

## Serving the Communities of:

Auburn City  
North Auburn  
Newcastle  
Penryn  
Ophir  
Bowman



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## MINUTES

**Date:** January 18, 2019

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

**Location:** City of Auburn, City Hall  
1225 Lincoln Way, Room #10  
Auburn CA. 95603

### 1. Call to Order:

A. Introduction of members: Kevin Hanley, Daniel Berlant, Bob Snyder, Kathy Baxter, Keri Askew, Jeff Milkes, Frank Udvarhely and Danielle Hardesty.

B. Introductions of non-members: Art Berliner, Michele Calbi, Marvin Curry (State Parks), Heidi Reijtens, Dave Spencer and John Williamson (Auburn Fire), Scott Eckardt, Don Harley, Cynthia Haynes (PG&E), John Hutchins (BOR), Nancy Jo Rieske, Bart Rudd, Diane Peters, Dave Putnam, Robert Richardson (City of Auburn), Michelle Sierra-Sammons.

### 2. Approval of Agenda: Approved.

### 3. Review of Minutes: Minutes for 12-21-18 approved.

### 4. Public Comment:

(A) Daniel Berlant reported on Gold Street access issue. The issue went to the Traffic Committee a second time. The committee approved no parking on Belmont and Gold where two streets come together (10' section). That is most immediate resolution. (B) Nancy Jo Rieske expressed concerns with North Auburn trap club shooting during red flag days. Kevin suggested that she make a public comment at the Placer Co BOS. (C) Jane Wurst, Bart Rudd and Michele expressed their opposition to the proposed Hidden Falls Park expansion noting the fire danger, lack of access for first responders, traffic on inadequate roads. said that the proposed Hidden Falls Expansion Project is grossly negligent and irresponsible. David Putnam commented regarding Hidden Falls proposed expansion. He believes horse riders should be required to put covers over steel horseshoes. (D) Kevin mentioned a tour by Placer BOS of Placer County Fire stations.

### 5. Strategic Plan 2019 Implementation:

A. Election of Officers. Kevin was elected Chairman, Daniel as Vice Chair and Keri as Secretary.

B. Auburn Fire Briefing. Chief Spencer noted that there is a changing environment from fire department's perspective. The core mission is prevention, education, and emergency response. Wants the community to focus on personal responsibility, pre-fire efforts, and emergency response. Another fire is inevitable. He sees his job as managing an all risk agency. The next catastrophic fire may not come out of the canyon. He wants the department to be receptive and responsive and he recognizes the concern regarding enforcement and complaints. The department stood up an inspection program and got to 800+ homes. They also addressed 86 formal complaints and achieved 100% compliance on those. They are currently working on state mandated inspections for businesses and residences and have completed 41 so far with 176 pending. Target for completion is March/April. In the education arena, the Department has participated in 25 community events, 7 prevention events, and has created new messaging. Annual message campaign is underway, and the Chief hopes to leverage overlap with GAAFSC and others. Ideally, we can work together to create multiple layers of communication for events and activities. We have seen \$850,000 in fire loss in the community in the past year, and saved about \$3 Million through firefighting efforts (line staff). Line

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staff is working pro-actively as well as in response to emergencies. An average of 28 hrs/month per of training for each line staff in Oct and Dec, slightly less in Nov but close. Auburn Fires is a single engine staffed department so they are working to leverage surrounding resources and work with partner agencies. Appreciates work of GAAFSC. Discussion centered on the adequacy of a single engine company to respond; whether the AFD could grade Firewise Communities; roles of GAAFSC and AFD and preventing duplication; status of work in Baltimore Ravine.

C. California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) Grant. Jeff explained that a \$105,000 CFSC grant is available with a \$35,000 local match. The match would come from the Project Canyon Fund maintained at the Auburn Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Daniel moved, Bob seconded and the council unanimously approved transferring the \$35,000 to the city for use as the local match for the CFSC.

D. Volunteer Fuel Reduction Program. Bob explained the project that will take place on city property near the train station on 1/26.

E. GAAFSC Strategic Plan 2019. Kevin explained the proposed items in the categories of Fuel Reduction Projects, Firewise Communities, Land Use Decisions and Fire Safety, Model Ordinances, and Public Education in the draft GAAFSC Strategic Plan 2019 to help guide the council's work for the year. Daniel suggested that the Plan be less specific about council efforts to help organize particular neighborhood potluck to create a Firewise Community and instead select a neighborhoods based on the fire threat. Danielle suggested that we ask the Firewise Communities to report their progress at council meetings on a quarterly rather than monthly basis and that we add setting up Booths at community events to promote GAAFSC's work. The GAAFSC Strategic Plan for 2019 with the three suggested changes were adopted.

## 6. Agency and Stakeholder Reports:

A. CAL FIRE/Placer Co Fire. No report.

B. Auburn Fire. Report made during the main agenda.

C. Placer County Fire Alliance. No report.

D. BOR. John discussed the President's Executive Order to accomplish more fuel reduction on Department of Interior lands.

E. State Parks. Marvin reported on using 900 inmate hours funded by BOR to do fuel reduction in the canyon.

F. PG&E. Cynthia explained the process of removing trees that threaten power lines and how residents can follow up on the status of the complaint.

## 7. Roundtable – None.

## 8. Next Meeting Date and Adjourn: Adjourned 10:30 AM. Next meeting: February 15, 2019.